

JAMES MONROE TROTTER.

With the colored Americans as with the white race the coming of the great Civil War and its consequent upheaval brought into the public limelight new men and new measures; not only did the old issues pass mainly from the stage but the men who had championed them were largely side-tracked from the national life of the Republic. The fortunes of the nation having been conducted by them to the point where moral persuasion no longer prevailed, could find final relief only through the surgical application of the sword and the men called in at this crisis performed their duty so well that the redeemed country thenceforth took its chief delight in rewarding those who had rallied to the call in her hour of peril. The tune on every lip thenceforward became "Arms and the man" and only deeds of the battle field could fire the popular mind and win that universal confidence and approval essential always to those who aspire to the leadership of a people. One has only to glance at the leading names of American history for 1860 and 1866 to note how complete had been the change! Scores of family names which had been prominent in the public life of the nation from its foundation, vanished as if by magic from a share in the public service. And the change was only less conspicuous among the colored people because in the old days they had participated to a less extent in the public life of the nation. Yet among them as among their other fellow countrymen, new names and new faces crowded to the front in every community. Among those whom the new era thus brought forward in Boston, Lieut. James Munroe Trotter ranks no less deservedly high in the field of literary usefulness than in the defense of his country. Young and full of the fresh vigor of a healthy approaching manhood, he obeyed with a passionate enthusiasm his country's summons to her colors at the earliest opportunity, and as a reward for devotion to duty was even more highly honored with places of trust afterwards in civil life.

James Munroe Trotter was one of several bright young men, formerly officers in the Massachusetts colored regiments, who, after being mustered out, took up permanent residence in Boston. Others among them were Capt. Chas. L. Mitchell and Lieut. Wm. H. Dupree, who are yet filling, the former, a respectable place in the U. S. Custom service, and the latter an even more conspicuous place as chief of Station A., the largest of the branch Post Offices. Lieut. Mitchell had the further honor of serving in the Massachusetts Legislature, 1866-7, being the first colored man to have that distinction. Indeed the list might be greatly enlarged with names of others from these regiments, whose careers were scarcely less creditable in civil life, though it was not their good fortune to fill so high places in the community. They, however, like the foregoing, no sooner laid down the sword than they picked up the pen or other means of usefulness in the service of their country, thereby proving that the latter is at least as serviceable as the former. But it is rather for the literary than for the military

side of his career that James Munroe Trotter has a place in these pages; for brave and useful though he was as a soldier and citizen his love and achievements in literature have been of a more enduring value.

James Munroe Trotter was born on the 7th of February, 1842 at Grand Gulf in Mississippi, a place on the great river of the same name, some 25 miles South of Vicksburg. The town of Grand Gulf with its less than five score people is hardly yet much more than a name, and had it not the honor of our subject's birth, together with the nearby residence of Dr. McDowell, another well-known man of color who was noted as a physician and land owner there in Claiborne County while Mississippi was still a territory the place might well be one with Nineveh and Tyre. After having passed his younger days at the place of his birth pretty much as was the general custom in Southern rural communities, young Trotter went about his twelfth year to live in Cincinnati where he spent the next few years between running as cabin-boy on a river steamer, and as a bell-boy in one of the Cincinnati hotels. While trying his fortunes in the Cincinnati hotel as bell-boy he took advantage at the same time of the local schools of that city. Here he obtained such training as these could impart; and went later on to study for a while at both Athens Academy and Iberia College in Ohio. In these two schools he rounded out what was a good education for that day, laying at the same time his foundation in music which was afterwards to be the subject of his splendid book. Thus equipped, our young student turned his ambition into the line of school teaching which then even more than now offered a ready opportunity to men of bright parts. The youthful teacher found a school-room open for him in Pike County, Southwestern Ohio a few miles out from Cincinnati and had there just settled down to a life's career in pedagogy when the great Civil War came. Here from his rural outlook, ferule in hand, he watched the issues of the war darken and thicken until the demand, which every colored man knew much come, went forth for colored troops.

Among the issues discussed by the Loyal Governors who met in secret council at Altoona, Penn., on the 22nd of September 1862, the very day of the promulgation of Lincoln's tentative Emancipation Proclamation, was the wisdom of enlisting colored men as soldiers. Up to this time the war had not only been conducted with a view of no interference with slavery, but the free colored men were told at every effort of theirs to get into the army that "this is a white man's war." This policy had interfered greatly with the rights of free blacks as well as prevented the States themselves from enlisting a large body of capable men as their quota of troops. The folly of such a course was pointed at the Altoona conference, and now that the government was about to emancipate all the slaves the wisdom of hitting slavery another blow by arming the blacks themselves was decided upon by the Loyal Governors. As Massachusetts had always headed the list in whatever made for the betterment of the colored race, to her gov-

ernor, John A. Andrew was assigned the honor of leading in the new departure. Gov. Andrew returned home, and entered upon the work of organizing colored regiments early in the following year, calling to his assistance for the new work George Luther Stearns the well-known antislavery Boston merchant. It is a matter of common knowledge to all that Maj. George L. Stearns had hardly begun with the new work before he enlisted the service of such colored leaders as Frederick Douglass, Charles L. Remond, John M. Langston and others to aid him. Douglass both with his voice and pen through his paper rendered doubled service to the cause. But as the colored population of Massachusetts was not than large, the State had to seek elsewhere for many of the men with whom to fill up her new regiments. Probably Ohio afforded better advantages in this line than any other Northern State, and as that was the home-State of John M. Langston, he naturally played a great part in recruiting the colored enlistments. Mr. Langston's territory for recruitment embraced much of Southern Ohio, especially the counties in and around Cincinnati; and it is to his influence mainly that we owe the entrance of the two young officers, Wm. H. Dupree and James M. Trotter from that section of the State. These men together with many others came on to the Readville camp near Boston where on the 12th of May 1863, the formation of the Fifty-fifth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers was begun.. And notwithstanding the exacting tests to which recruits were subjected to insure the fittest possible regiment both in health and character, men came much faster than their accoutrements; drilling in the meanwhile went on with borrowed arms. The historian of the organization tells us that: "The regiment remained without its colors for some time after its organization, using on drills and parades a flag which had been presented by the young ladies of Dorchester to the wide awakes of that town. The delay was occasioned by the non-arrival of a gentleman from Ohio, who had been delegated to present to the regiment a stand of colors, the gift of the colored ladies of that State."

( Fox's Record of the 55th Reg. P 4 )

From Langston's life we learn that he himself was the man who was delegated to deliver them, but was stopped on his way to Massachusetts with the colors by Gov. Todd at Columbus, Ohio, and prevailed upon to take up the work of recruiting men for Ohio. There is however some difference of opinion as to the source of these colors; as Langston tells us that, through an agreement with Gov. John A. Andrew and Mr. Stearns, "Mr. Langston had determined to have made in his own State and at his own expense a full stand of regimental colors for it.. Accordingly colors were purchased as ordered and made by Scheilotto and Co., Cincinnati, Ohio." [From the Virginia Plantation to the National Capitol]

What probably the author means to convey is that he advanced the money in order to hasten the work but that the amount was refunded by the ladies aforesaid.

Although the enlistment of the Fifty-fifth Regiment which was only begun on the 12th of May had advanced so far that private James M. Trotter was assigned to Company K; ( the last of the ten companies) on his arrival, yet so rapid and complete was his mastery of the drill and other minutiae of camp life, that he was made first sergeant of his company by the 11th of June. Indeed the evolution and development of the whole regiment was repaid and successful so much so that the Fifty-fifth was ready for the field by the middle of July scarcely two months from the beginning of formation.

It had been the purpose of the War Department to have the regiment proceed by land to New York City for embarkment to the South, but the draft-riot which occurred about the middle of July in New York caused the plan to be changed. Instead, Col. Norwood P. Hallowell was ordered to proceed with his regiment by water from Boston. Accordingly Col. Hallowell broke camp with his splendid command on the 21st of July, 1863, and after a march through some of the principal streets of Boston, embarked on the steamer Cohowa at Battery Wharf for Newbern, North Carolina. The regiment reached its destination on the 25th of July after four delightful days on their first sea-voyage, and went at once into camp. But hardly had they landed before it was again embarked and went to aid in the reduction of Charleston, S. C. It had not seriously been intended to employ the colored troops in the heavy works at first as it was not thought that they would stand fire. But even before the 55th Massachusetts had embarked for the field ( though the news had not then arrived) its brother regiment had the 54th Massachusetts had already received such a baptism of fire ( July 18th) in its attack on Fort Wagner that the whole idea about the bravery of colored troops had to be revised. Hardly had the 55th reached the South therefore before it was sent into the trenches of Folly, and Morris Islands around Charleston. The regiment in fact took part in every kind of work leading up to the evacuation of Forts Wagner and Gregg, and the behavior of Sergeant Trotter through it all, and especially his manly utterance in connection with the difference in pay which the colored men were offered, won him the promotion to Sergeant Major in November, 1863. In fact this question of a difference in pay between the white and colored soldiers which the government adopted from the first continued the bete noir of the service for a year after the men were enlisted, and caused from beginning to end much dissatisfaction, and annoyance. But to the eternal honor of the colored troops who went out from Massachusetts, neither did they refuse to fight, nor did they belittle their own manhood by accepting smaller pay than their white fellows-in-arms. Nor did they accept the offer of the State to make up the difference, preferring many of them to go in want rather than compromise their manhood. Meanwhile Sergeant Major Trotter with others had proved so efficient in arms that he had been advanced to second Lieutenant of his company in April,



but the department-headquarters refused his together with similar promotions for sergts. Dupree and Shorter, on the ground that "no law existed for their muster as commissioned officers."

Rumors finally began to fly around that congress was endeavoring to straighten out the matter of pay; but the officers having been deceived so often on that question would not say anything about it, until they got the ocular proof from sergts. Trotter and Dupree and Phoenix who, though denied their promotion, had received a short furlough home, and had also received full back pay from the paymaster whom they met en route at Hilton Head. Official news reached the regiment on the 22nd of August that the whole question of salary had been rectified so that instead of the ten dollars month, the men were to be paid \$13, as other soldiers, and this pay was given them from the first of January, 1864. The men received their money during the first days of October of that year, and so solicitous had they been about the needs of their families, that even after liquidating all indebtedness with the *Sutler* and others, the privates of the 55th Regiment alone sent home \$60,000. by the Adams Express Company, to nothing of the other amounts and methods of sending. Thus after well-nigh fifteen months' service colored troops were given the same pay with others.

It would be quite beyond the scope or purpose of the present pages to make a step-by-step survey of the 55th Regiment's entire career in the field; it is enough here to call the roll merely of such larger places as Morris and Folly Islands, Deveaux Necks, Briggen Creek and Honey Hill to form some idea of the scope of the regiment's 28 months in the field. But as Honey Hill was one of the fiercest and most stubborn battles in which the regiment was engaged, a word or two more at length would not be amiss here.

The object for the advance on Honey Hill was contained in these lines to Gen. Wallock from Gen. Sherman at Kingston, Ga., November 11, 1863: "I would like to have Foster break the Charleston and Savannah Railroad about Pocotaligo about the 1st of December." For this purpose therefore some 5,000 were gathered at Hilton Head, S. C. toward the end of November and placed under Gen. John P. Hatch. The expedition got under way on the 29th of the month in two brigades from "Boyd's Neck" after having been landed there by transports. Their course lay towards Grayhamville S. C. a few miles away. The first brigade, composed of the 56th and 127th, New York, the 25th Ohio, 35th United States and a battery of the Third Rhode Island Artillery, under Gen. Butler/ led the advance; the second brigade under Col. Hartwell was composed of the 55th and 54th Massachusetts, the 26th and the 102nd United States. But only the two Massachusetts regiments marched with the column, the other two regiments having been sent in another direction. Broken bridges, and swollen streams delayed the march. They had gone only three miles from the landing at noon.

Col. Hartwell commanding the second brigade, with eight companies of the 55th Massachusetts, under Lieut. Col. Chas. B. Fox, hearing volley firing breaking the pervading stillness, moved rapidly to the front. There the leaders filing along the wood-road, three companies got separated from the regiment when Col. Hartwell ordered a charge in double column. The only approach leading to the rebel batteries and intrenchments was the narrow cutting through which the road crossed the swamp, and in this defile five companies of the 55th Massachusetts were subjected to a concentrated fire of artillery and infantry from the enemy's breastworks at a distance less than a hundred yards away! Twice forced to fall back by the enemy's fire their brave colonel giving the command "Follow your colors," and himself leading on horseback, the 55th turned the bend rushed up the road, and in the face of a deadly fire advanced to the creek. But it was fruitless for the pitiless shot and shell so decimated the ranks that the survivors retired. More than a hundred officers and men were wiped in less than minutes. Captain Crane and Boynton and Color Sergeant Robert King, blown to pieces by shells, were among the dead, while Sergt-Major Trotter, Serg. Shorter and Chas. L. Mitchell, and Col. Hartwell commander of the brigade, were wounded.

Fresh from Fort Wagner with their laurels far unparalleled bravery resting upon it, the 54th Massachusetts was immediately sent in to retrieve the day, and so made one or two spirited charge, but to no purpose; for what the 55th had failed to do in its almost reckless charges through that narrow defile, was not to be accomplished by living men! The brave regiment notwithstanding its thinned and decimated ranks, reported next morning for duty, and played a conspicuous part in the fight around Devereux's Neck which engaged the attention of Gen. Hatch's brigades during the early December days. (See Emelios' Brave Black Regiment P 243 etc. and Foxs' Record p 41 etc.)

From Devereux's Neck the 55th regiment worked its way back towards Charleston, which it reached towards the end of the following March, though not till after the skirmishes at Biggin Creek and the village of St. Stephen had taken place. Sergt. Major Trotter was out of the fight during these days in consequence of the wound received at Honey Hill; but the real fighting part of the war was over in that section; for Gen. Sherman had reached the end of his march through Georgia, and having presented Savannah with its rich stores to President Lincoln as a Christmas present on the 22nd of the preceding December, was now well on his way north through the Carolines in pursuit of Johnson and his army: The 55th Massachusetts with other members of its brigade remained around Charleston forming part of the army of occupation; and like all such armies did quite as much civil as military duty at the time. For this work the regiment finally took up quarters at Orangeburg, S. C. Sergt. Major Trotter had in the meanwhile recovered from his wound sufficiently to rejoin the regiment, and now, together with

the other colored officers formerly denied promotion, was finally mustered in as Second Lieutenant of his company, July 1st, 1865. ( Under the heading of Colored young men who have been promoted in the service of their country, the Liberator of Aug. 4, 1865 announces that in the 55th Massachusetts Regiment we have three lieutenants, Messrs. Trotter, Dupree and Shorter; in the 54th Messrs. 1st Lieutenant Smails and 2nd Lieutenant Voglesang and Welsh.")

But the war was now over, and the 55th Massachusetts breaking camp at Orangeburg on the 24th of August following, and marched to Charleston where the regiment was mustered out on the 29th. Although mustered out, the organization was not formally discharged until it reached Massachusetts on the 23rd of September. Lieutenant Trotter went for a short while to his Ohio home, and friends, but soon returned to Boston where his clerical ability won him a clerkship in the Boston Post Office in December 1865. In his new position the ex-soldier applied himself with his usual earnestness for the next three years in order to master the details of the work, preparing also for his coming responsibility in another line. At the end of this time he married in 1868 Miss Virginia Fitzisacs of Chillicothe, Ohio, whom he had met in his school teaching days. The young couple settled down in Boston for many of the years of their early married life, but in the end moved to Hyde Park where with their three children they resided during the last ten years of his life. Situated thus, with regular stated hours for labor, and amid pleasant surroundings of congenial associates and libraries of rich collections, our subject naturally acquired a new and happy outlook on life. His old love for books especially those relating to music returned, and this together with the new spirit of liberty then glowing everywhere around him touched his soul to a high emprise.

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The valor of the colored man in arms both in the war just past and in those of earlier periods of the country's progress had already been embalmed in song and story by other Boston pens, as had indeed the larger endeavors of the race along the more peaceful avenues of life. But none had yet attempted to tell the story of the singer himself. With his natural love for music Mr. Trotter had long been particularly interested in the musicians of the race, and now with his leisure for study and investigation determined to put that love into concrete form. The form in which he chose to express himself was an excellent book of some 500 pages to which he gave the title of

#### " MUSIC AND SOME HIGHLY MUSICAL PEOPLE."

This work our author has divided, or rather treated under several different headings in the first 65 pages of which he talks on the general nature of music both natural and acquired, glances at its history, and describes its beauty, power and uses. Then follows

the division of the work which is devoted to biographical sketches of those who though known mainly in life's humbler walks, have yet left their impress upon the art divine. This section of author Trotter's book embraces by far the larger part of the work. Herein we have first the individual lives which stand out sufficiently apart to warrant separate treatment; then the shorter careers of both instrumental and vocal musicians. The author treats of both jubilee singers and some other traveling companies, as well as some successful quartets and musical clubs, showing in every case much careful study and research for facts.

Of such companies as the Georgia minstrels, the Fisk Jubilee singers and the Colored American Opera Company of Washington, the writer has given detailed account of their rise and progress. We learn what and where they performed, how they were received and the unquestioned service they rendered to the great cause of race as well as music by their accomplishment in their chosen art. Under these and the foregoing individual sketches, together with the shorter accounts of "Other Remarkable Musicians", Mr. Trotter has left us some information about every colored musician of possible note in his day. In fact this division of the author's work is so exhaustive and complete that the reader may well regard it as the chief end and aim of the book; the preceding chapters on music in general constitute from that point of view an admirable introductory to the book as a whole.

Notwithstanding his literary distinction, and superior clerical ability gained through long experience in the department of the Post Office where he had always worked, Mr. Trotter had the mortification of seeing himself denied advancement in the service purely on account of his color and another man, his inferior both in rank and ability, promoted above him. Against this rank injustice Mr. Trotter made vigorous protest to the Post Office department and to others whose business it was to rectify the wrong thus done him. He was met more with a - what-are-you-going-to-do-about-it than with any effort to right the wrong, and he was thenceforth put more or less under the ban as a malcontent by his superiors. When at length he saw that nothing was going to be done about the matter, but that the injustice to him was being connived at by reason of his color, he resigned without a moment's hesitation before he would suffer such humiliation! This was in 1833 while President Chester A. Arthur was still in office and the Republican party yet in control of every branch of the government! He saw then (what other leaders have been made to see since) the danger to the freedom of the colored race by being unreservedly in one party. So long in control of the government, the Republicans felt that they could use the colored vote as a perpetual asset without so much as permitting themselves to be asked any questions about it by the colored people themselves. Though in the overwhelmingly Republican Massachusetts, our subject refused to allow himself longer to be used in that manner! From that moment he became an independent in politics and persuaded his race to take the same attitude.



At that day and time his course certainly looked like David with the sling-shot advancing upon Goliath! For no one could then imagine any change so powerful as to effect the dominancy of the Republican party either in state or nation. It is certain that the party leaders had no dream of such a thing. But over-confidence like pride ever goeth before a fall, and probably life's greatest triumphs should be accentuated with:

" If drunk with sight of power, we loose  
Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe,  
Such boastings as the gentiles use,  
Or lesser breeds without the Law-  
Lord God of Hosts be with us yet,  
Lest we forget- lest we forget! "

In less than twelve months after the injustice to Mr. Trotter the impossible had happened, and Republican leaders had cause to regret their action, for in the very following year Grover Cleveland the Democratic candidate for the Presidency was elected and Mr. Trotter had the satisfaction of having been one of the active promoters in the result. For the part he took in this election as well as for the example which he afforded of a highly intelligent colored leader's advocating the wisdom of his race's dividing their suffrage between the parties, he was appointed to the office of Recorder of Deeds at Washington. This appointment was made by President Cleveland on the 23th of March 1887, after a long and bitter contest on his part with both the Republican and Bourbon democratic senators to fill that office with another and it might as well be said now as at any time, that, though, in the language of politics " he was to have " so mething equally good," this office was not originally intended for Mr. Trotter.

It was Mr. James C. Matthews an able young lawyer of Albany, New York who was first named for the District Recordership by President Cleveland, and whose nomination was for a cause as honorable to himself as it was discreditable to his opponents, finally defeated. Matthews was nominated for the recordership on the 4th of March 1886, and his name failing to get the approval of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia by a tie-vote of four on the 19th of the same month, was reported unfavorable to the Senate three days later. The Senate after considering the matter voted on the 29th of March to recommend the nomination, continued until the last day of July when it was rejected by the Senate. President Cleveland, nevertheless named Matthews as a recess appointment immediately after the Senate adjourned, on the 9th of August, and when Congress reassembled four months later, sent the nomination again to the senate on the 21st of december, 1886 The Senate by this time begun to show much impatience with the President, and almost hastened to reject the name of Mr. Matthews the second time on the 26th of January, 1887. The fight against Matthews was two-fold; the Republican senators fighting him ostensibly because he was not a resident of the District of Columbia, and the

Democrats because he had taken an active part in getting separate schools abolished in New York in 1834. All affected to be more or less influenced by the charges of bribery made but not proved against Matthews in connection with the passage of those laws. But probably the real cause on the Republican side of the Senate was that those members being still in the majority desired to embarrass the new democratic administration, while the Southern wing of the President's own party sought this as their first opportunity to put their party on record as opposed to colored men's holding ~~foreign~~ government offices, and against the spirit of the three last Articles of the National Constitution.

But all of this is quite a part from the point intended to be emphasized here, which was to say that it was during this interim occupancy of the recordership by Matthews that Mr. Trotter entered the office as Deputy Recorder. During the very short time of his service under Mr. Matthews he showed himself to be possessed of such superior clerical ability that he soon had complete mastery of the office. This quite as much as his political service pointed him out to President Cleveland as the fit man for the place when it was made clear that Mr. Matthews was not going to be confirmed. After the final rejection of the foregoing appointee, therefore, President Cleveland sent the following communication to the Senate:

" To the Senate of the United States,

I hereby nominate James Munroe Trotter of Massachusetts to be  
" Recorder of Deeds in the District of Columbia vice Frederick  
" Douglass resigned"

Grover Cleveland."

This communication was addressed to the Senate on the 23th of March 1837, and the nomination was confirmed after no undue delay. The Senate opposition having shot its last bow in connection with the previous appointment, did not care to enter further into a business from which they were deriving no credit. The feeling at the time was admirably reflected in the newspapers thus:

Our author remained in his new office discharging the duties with consummate ability.

The office of Recorder of the District of Columbia during Mr. Trotter's incumbency was not a salaried position at all, but the compensation for service came entirely from fees. Now it so happened that during this time Washington was experiencing one of those periodic booms which come occasionally to all progressive cities, and the recorder's office proved not only one of the busiest but one of the most lucrative places in the gift of the nation. Frederick Douglass who filled the office in the preceding administration tells us: "The office of Recorder was far less remunerative when I held it than it has since become. With the almost wonderful increase of population after long years of stationary condition due to the existence of slavery, and with the vast improvements in its sanitary conditions there has come to Washington a surprising activity in the real estate business. As the office of Recorder is supported by fees, and every transfer of property and every deed of trust and every mortgage executed must be recorded, the income of this office has risen to a larger sum than that of any office of the national government except that of the president of the United States"

(Douglass' Life and Times p 640)

Recorder Trotter filled his Washington post some three years, or to be exact, two years and eleven months before being replaced with his successor in Blanche K. Bruce, appointed by President Benjamin Harrison. He never however moved his family there as the school facilities of the national capitol were not in keeping with the New England bringing up of his children then in school. It was during the first year of his occupancy of the Recorder's office that Mr. Trotter suffered a severe attack of pneumonia which caused his life for some time to be despaired of, and which so undermined his health that he may be said never to have recovered. "Never at any time too robust and strong, that insidious affliction left his system so disordered and impaired that he became an easy prey in the course of a short time to tuberculosis that dread scourge of New England. Conscious of his approaching fate, he returned home to Hyde Park in 1891, and set about completing some real estate plans, such as had engaged much of his time after leaving the post office. Here he lived in a quiet manner trying to regain his health, and supervising when able some houses which he was having erected in that suburb. A few days before the end he said smilingly to a neighbor who met him at these new buildings: "I want to see these houses finished, for then I am going away from here." His words proved prophetic; for he died in a very few days afterwards on the 27th of February, 1892. Naturally of a serious turn of mind, energetic and full always of restless activity,

"His fiery soul in working out its way  
Fretted the pigmy body to decay."

The life of James Munroe Trotter may be regarded as having been in ideal one in every respect in spite of his early man-

hood's having been spent on tented fields. He had just enough of war to make him know and properly value manhood freedom in its truest sense. From an honored place of trust in the army he went to one, considering the day, even more important in the civil life of his country, which he filled with equal ability. It was his happiness at the same time to find additional consolation in books which he turned to enduring ends in his splendid work on colored musicians. Besides he was active in his earlier days in all those movements on community-interest such as demand both time and thoughtful attention yet, like virtue, are their own reward. He ever stood unflinchingly for his rights as a man and a citizen, which fact is amply shown by resignation from the Post Office rather than endure an implied humiliation and by his resenting the mild jim-crowing implied in the use of "you people" in reference to colored people by even so good a friend as Senator Hoar.